
SENATE BILL 6743

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Tom, and Shin

Read first time 01/22/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to autism awareness instruction for teachers of
2 students with autism; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The professional educator standards board, in consultation with
7 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the autism task
8 force, and representatives from state and nonprofit agencies that
9 promote autism awareness and provide programs and services for people
10 with autism, shall develop autism awareness and training policy
11 guidelines for schools to ensure that teachers responsible for autistic
12 children are well-prepared and up-to-date on the most effective methods
13 of teaching children with autism.

14 (2) The autism awareness and training policy guidelines shall
15 ensure, but need not be limited to requiring that:

16 (a) A candidate for a Washington instructional certificate
17 satisfactorily complete instruction in autism awareness and methods of
18 teaching students with autism at an accredited institution of higher
19 education;

1 (b) A person seeking certification through an alternate route,
2 within one year of being employed, satisfactorily complete instruction
3 in autism awareness and methods for teaching students with autism at an
4 accredited institution of higher education; and

5 (c) All teachers not subject to (a) or (b) of this subsection be
6 required to pursue instruction in autism awareness and methods for
7 teaching students with autism by the 2010-11 school year as part of the
8 professional development requirement established by the professional
9 educator standards board.

10 (3) By September 1, 2008, the professional educator standards board
11 shall develop recommendations for autism awareness instruction and
12 methods of teaching students with autism for all teacher preparation
13 and professional development programs and shall submit the
14 recommendations to the governor and the education committees of the
15 legislature.

16 (4) By December 1, 2008, the superintendent of public instruction
17 shall report the policy guidelines to school districts for the
18 districts to use to develop and adopt their policies.

19 (5) By April 1, 2009, each school district shall use the guidelines
20 developed under subsection (1) of this section to develop and adopt a
21 school district policy for each school in the district to ensure that
22 teachers are well-prepared and up-to-date on the most effective methods
23 of teaching children with autism.

24 (6) Guidelines adopted by school districts under this section shall
25 also apply to classified staff seeking a special education endorsement
26 or certification, or both.

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